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Van Woerkom to Chair Forestry Hearings

*Senate Majority Leader Sikkema asks Forestry Chair to hold hearings
on the management of Michigan State Forestry system*

LANSING – Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema, R-Wyoming, today asked Sen. Gerald Van Woerkom, R-Norton Shores, to chair legislative hearings in the Senate on the stewardship and management of the Michigan State Forest system in the fall. Hearings are to be held by a joint Senate and the House of Representatives committee, in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Michigan State Forestry system.

“I welcome the commitment to conduct a thorough investigation of the Michigan State Forestry system, to examine how well Michigan is protecting our natural resources and how well we are serving the needs of our state forests,” Van Woerkom said. “I appreciate Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema’s commitment to protecting natural resources. The testimony gathered during the hearings will provide the Legislature with useful information to help create a comprehensive plan to protect our forestry system now and in the future.”

Michigan’s first state forests were established in Roscommon and Crawford counties in 1903. What began as a 34,000 acres forest system has grown into nearly 4 million acres of mixed hardwood forest enjoyed by residents and tourists throughout Michigan.

Sen. Van Woerkom will announce the schedule of hearings on the Michigan Forest System in the coming weeks.